Robert Boenig

Engl 610:600, Beowulf
Spring 2017

This is a course about a single poem of 3182 lines, the greatest of all Old English works of literature. We will translate most of the poem but also focus on its literary value and its historical and artistic context. Knowledge of the Old English language is presupposed (on a level equivalent to that garnered from a reasonably successful excursus through a graduate course in Old English). But as Tolkien so long ago reminded us, the poem is less an artifact than a great work of literature, and that is where our interest lies. Consequently, we will also discuss 20th- and 21st-century cultural appropriations of Beowulf (mostly movies).

This course fulfills the requirement for one course in any literature, pre-1660 and arrangement can be made for its fulfilling the language requirement.